

## Provider Communication

<b>Subject:</b> Medicaid Eligibility for Haitian Earthquake Parolees	<b>Priority:</b> <b>High</b>
<b>Date:</b> February 5, 2010	<b>Message ID:</b> ACSBNR02052010_1

### *Dear Providers,*

This communication serves to provide information about the Georgia Department of Community Health's process for handling Medicaid eligibility for Haitian earthquake parolees seeking medical care in Georgia.

Pursuant to the recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, Q&A's for State Medicaid Agencies: The Haitian Earthquake Crisis, and in accordance with the Refugee Education and Assistance Act of 1980, which "*permits Cubans and Haitians who have been granted humanitarian parole to be provided benefits....*", Haitians granted humanitarian parole because of the earthquake are qualified aliens and are exempt from the 5-year waiting period to be considered for Medicaid. Eligible Haitian parolees may receive all medical services available under the State plan and that are otherwise available to other eligible Medicaid members. The emergency services restriction affecting some non-citizens does not apply to Haitian parolees.

**For your information, the following are frequently asked questions and our response:**

**1. Are there any other Haitian nationals arriving who do not have humanitarian parole status?**

Yes. Children who are U.S. citizens or are being brought in as parolees may be accompanied by an adult who have been granted a B2 visitor visa. Additionally, it is possible that Haitian nationals may be arriving via private or commercial transportation, with or without a visitor visa. The number of such individuals is unknown.

**2. Are people on B2 visitor visas eligible for Medicaid?**

No. Individuals admitted on B2 visas are not considered qualified aliens, nor are they considered lawfully residing in the U.S. due to the nature of their admission. However, individuals admitted with B2 visas may seek to qualify for Medicaid under the Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) criteria, where applicable

**3. What other factors must be considered in establishing Medicaid eligibility for individuals evacuated from Haiti for medical care?**

In addition to providing documentation as a humanitarian parolee, all other Medicaid eligibility criteria must be met, including status as a child, pregnant woman, parent, a person over 65 years old or a disabled person.

4. **What if a person is incapacitated and cannot apply for Medicaid?**

A responsible party representing the individual, who may be physically or mentally unable to apply for Medicaid directly, may submit an application on the individual's behalf. Applications are filed in the same manner as for any person requesting Medicaid, through the local county Department of Human Resources, Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). To locate your county DFCS office, go to [www.http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHR-DFCS/](http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHR-DFCS/).

5. **For individuals who are eligible, will Medicaid cover all of these services?**

Yes. All medically necessary services available under the State plan or approved waivers are covered for all eligible members. All existing limitation, payments, and member co-payments are applicable.

For additional information or questions, refer to the CMS website at

[https://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_alp.php?&p\\_pv=4.1122&p\\_prods=1,2,476,1122;](https://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php?&p_pv=4.1122&p_prods=1,2,476,1122;)  
or contact the Georgia Health Partnership (GHP) Provider Inquiry line at 800-766-4456.